

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05217 241828Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

CIAE-00 PM-04 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-05 NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15

PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 SAJ-01 EB-07 /059 W

----- 103901

O R 241720Z SEP 75

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3717

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5217

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK

SUBJ: US/UK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

AMEMBASSY LONDON PASS TO USNATO DEFENSE ADVISOR DR. LEGERE WITH
SECDEF PARTY

REF: A. LONDON 14388 DTG 181011Z SEP 75

B. STATE 220011 DTG 161321Z SEP 75

1. HERewith TEXT OF LETTER ON SUBJECT, DATED SEP 23, 1975, FROM
AMB. PECK (UK) TO AMB. DRAPF (FRG), A COPY OF WHICH WAS SENT TO
OTHER NATO AMBASSADORS IN EUROGROUP AND TO AMB. BRUCE. BEGIN
TEXT:

1. MR MASON, THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE, AND MR SCH-
LESINGER EXPECT TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING RELATING
TO THE RECIPROCAL PURCHASING OF DEFENCE EQUIPMENT WHEN
THEY MEET ON 24 SEPTEMBER.

2. THIS MEMORANDUM HAS BEEN UNDER NEGOTIATION FOR SEVERAL MONTHS.
IT WAS PROMPTED BY A RECOGNITION OF THE DIFFICULTIES THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 NATO 05217 241828Z

BOTH WE AND THE US HAVE FOUND IN NEGOTIATING ON A CASE-BY-CASE
BASIS OFFSETS FOR BRITISH PURCHASES OF US DEFENCE EQUIPMENT
WHICH HAVE, OF COURSE, GREATLY EXCEEDED PURCHASES IN THE OTHER
DIRECTION. ITS TIMING WAS RELATED TO CERTAIN PURCHASES OF US DE-

FENCE EQUIPMENT THAT THE UK WAS CONTEMPLATING.

3. THE APPROACH ADOPTED IN THE MEMORANDUM IS THAT AN APPROPRIATE BALANCE OF RECIPROCAL PURCHASES SHALL BE STRUCK OVER A PERIOD. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE ARRANGEMENTS TO BE SET UP UNDER THE TERMS OF THE MEMORANDUM IS TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR EACH COUNTRY TO BUY DEFENCE EQUIPMENT FROM THE OTHER IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE THE BENEFITS OF STANDARDISATION, AND ECONOMIC AND OTHER ADVANTAGES. THIS IS, OF COURSE, THE SAME OBJECTIVE THAT WE ARE SEEKING TO ACHIEVE UNDER THE "TWO-WAY-STREET" PROPOSALS BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES. BOTH WE AND THE UNITED STATES REGARD THE MEMORANDUM AS A POSITIVE AND ENCOURAGING STEP FORWARD ON THE "TWO-WAY-STREET" AND INDEED THE MEMORANDUM MAKES A SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO THE FACT THAT NOTHING IN IT IS INTENDED TO INHIBIT OR TO BE INCOMPATIBLE WITH A WIDER EUROPE/US AGREEMENT THAT MIGHT BE NEGOTIATED IN DUE COURSE.

4. I AM SENDING A COPY OF THIS LETTER TO OUR EUROGROUP COLLEAGUES, AND TO AMBASSADOR BRUCE; AND THE BRITISH AMBASSADOR IN PARIS IS INFORMING THE FRENCH MINISTER OF DEFENCE IN SIMILAR TERMS. ENT TEXT.

2. EUROGROUP SECRETARIAT JOHN LEDLIE, WORKING OUT OF UK DELGATION TO NATO, CALLED MISSION OFFICER SEP 24 TO DISCUSS MOU AND ABOVE LETTER. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT TIMING OF MOU MAY HAVE UNFORTUNATE SIDE EFFECTS ON EUROGROUP'S INITIATIVE (THE TWO-WAY STREET) AND ON THE US STANDARDIZATION INITIATIVE WHICH WE TABLED IN THE NAC ON SEP 17.

3. ACCORDING TO LEDLIE, PRELIMINARY ALLIED REACTIONS TO THE US/UK MOU HAVE NOT BEEN FAVORABLE. THE FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR (BGRN. SCHUNEMANN) INDICATED THAT BONN WAS "SURPRISED" THAT THE MOU EXISTED AND THAT THE FRG HAD NOT BEEN INFORMED. SCHUNEMANN ALSO QUESTIONED THE TIMING OF THE MOU, AS DID THE BELGIAN DEFENSE ADVISOR, WHO ALSO WONDERED IF IT REPRESENTED THE FIRST STEP OF THE EUROGROUP'S TWO-WAY STREET. MOST DELEGATIONS WITH WHOM LEDLIE DISCUSSED THE MATTER WANTED A COPY OF THE MOU, WHICH WE UNDER-CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 05217 241828Z

STAND IS BEING CONSIDERED BY THE UK. WE UNDERSTAND THE UK MAYBE ALSO INFORMING SYG LUNS ABOUT THE MOU.

4. IN SUMMARY, LEDLIE SUSPECTED THAT EUROGROUP'S CONFIDENCE MAY BE "BADLY SHAKEN" BY THE MOU. COMMENT: WE ANTICIPATE THAT THIS ISSUE MAY BE BROUGHT TO SECRETARY SCHLESINGER'S ATTENTION DURING HIS TALKS WITH ALLIES IN LONDON, BONN AND PARIS. END COMMENT. BRUCE

CONFIDENTIAL

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 18 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975NATO05217
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t197509102/abbrzmec.tel
Line Count: 106
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. LONDON 14388 DTG 181011Z SEP 75 B. STATE 220011 DTG 161321Z SEP 75
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; RELEASED <30 APR 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <01 MAY 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US/UK MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)
TAGS: MPOL, NATO, UK
To: STATE
SECDEF
LONDON INFO BONN
PARIS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

